

Gender Matters

April 2008

Single-Gender Initiatives
Office of Public School Choice
South Carolina Department of Education

Greetings Educators!

I hope you have enjoyed, are enjoying, or will enjoy your Spring Break! As you will see, we have topped 300 schools being interested in or already having single-gender classes. I continue to post resources for you on the SCDE SGI webpage (ed.sc.gov/sgi). New items include:

- Text Resources for Single-Gender Classrooms (Resources)
- Single-Gender Data Collection Table (Resources)
- Directions for Gender Tag for SASI (Resources)

The Year End Surveys on Single-Gender Classes for Students, Teachers, and Parents are live. There are three surveys, one for each group. The links are on the SCDE SGI webpage as well as on page 2 of this newsletter. You can access the link from April 1 through May 9. That gives you 6 weeks. Please make an effort to have all students, teachers, and parents involved with single-gender classes complete the appropriate survey. As before, I will send your school information back to you, as well as report on the overall status for South Carolina.

Enjoy,

David



South Carolina
Department of Education

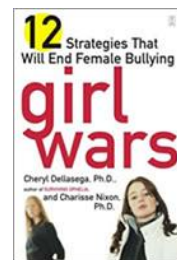
Together, we can.

SCHEDULING IDEAS

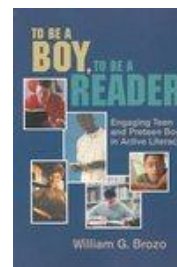
One of the hardest parts of implementing single-gender classes is creating the schedule. Several examples will be posted on the SCDE SGI webpage in the coming days, but the following are some ideas.

1. Single-gender teachers teach only one gender all day (only boys or only girls). This allows the teacher to really focus on the needs of one gender. It also allows the classroom to be designed to meet the needs of the specific gender as well.
2. Single-gender teachers only teach single-gender classes (boys classes and girl classes). This allows the teachers to focus on single-gender strategies. Ideally the teachers will teach one gender in the morning and then the other in the afternoon. Try not to have teachers teach a boy class, then a girl class, then a boy class, etc. This back and forth is difficult for teachers.
3. One team of teachers are the teachers for the boys and another team are the teachers for the girls. Again, this allows the teams to focus on the needs of one gender. Do not set up competitions between the boy teams and the girls teams—this can get quite negative if not handled with care.

Books to Use



Girl Wars: 12 Strategies that Will End Female Bullying by Cheryl Dellasega and Charisse Nixon. Recommended strategies that address relational aggression.



To Be a Boy, to Be A Reader by William Brozo. Describes several male archetypes for literature and literary experiences.

PLEASE SEND ME TITLES OF BOOKS THAT YOU USE AND WOULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL FOR TEACHERS OF SINGLE-GENDER CLASSROOMS.

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform educators about single-gender updates in the state, provide best-practice advice, spur collaboration, and announce professional development opportunities. I welcome your information and comments.

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Single-Gender Surveys Student—Parent—Teacher

A critical part of any new program is gathering feedback from stakeholders to learn what works and what doesn't work. And, for single-gender programs, the federal guidelines requires that schools review their data every two years to determine if the program is meeting the needs of its students and is matching the rationale upon which it was created.

In order to facilitate this, I have posted three surveys on the SCDE SGI webpage. **The surveys will be live from April 1—May 9, 2008.**

Results from individual schools will be sent back to the individual school. State-wide data will be reported as well.

The survey will take 10—15 minutes to complete.

In the fall, schools had students complete the survey in the computer lab. The parent link was made available for parents during Book Fairs, Spring Curriculum Nights, or Spring Conferences. Teachers completed the surveys during team planning.

Student Survey Link: <http://ed.sc.gov/tools/scripts/survey/45990994/default.cfm>

Parent Survey Link: <http://ed.sc.gov/tools/scripts/survey/11713016/default.cfm>

Teacher Survey Link: <http://ed.sc.gov/tools/scripts/survey/45727010/default.cfm>

SASI Gender Tag in the Sections Atom

In order to help with the collection of data, I am asking that all schools with single-gender classes, begin using the Gender Tag in the Sections Atom of SASI with the 08-09 scheduling.

Directions for the SASI Gender Tag is posted on the SCDE Webpage under Resources.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD: Across the country, more schools are implementing single-gender formats. Here is the latest. - David

Minnesota Public Radio, March 21, 2008

By Tim Nelson

A new charter school in St. Paul is aiming to be the first "girl focused" public school [Laura Jeffrey Academy] in Minnesota. It'll part of a wave of interest in single-sex education in the U.S. But organizers admit it'll be easier said than done.

Boys School In Works For Fall

Posted on: Monday, 10 March 2008, 12:00 CDT

By Rachel Gottlieb Frank, The Hartford Courant, Conn.

Mar. 9--Hartford is poised to jump headlong into single-gender education, with an all-boys school being planned for the fall and a girls' school to follow a year later.

They would become the first entirely single-gender public schools in the state, said Tom Murphy, spokesman for the state Department of Education.

The city in the past had same-sex classrooms in a middle school and an elementary school, and the school board is considering resurrecting one of those now-defunct programs, the all-boys Benjamin E. Mays Academy formerly at Fox Middle School, and making it its own school.

The new academy, bearing the name of Martin Luther King Jr.'s mentor, would infuse African-American and Latino history and culture into the curriculum, and it would concentrate on building leadership skills.

Carving out a program and hiring a staff that concentrates on boys is not a luxury or a novelty but rather a critical necessity in Hartford, said Doug McCrory, co-chairman of the design team for the boys' school.

"This is a public-safety issue. The more kids we educate, the fewer kids we have on the street," said McCrory, a Democratic state representative from Hartford and vice principal at Bulkeley High School.

EDUCATION: Del. Senate approves bill allowing single gender charter school

By The Associated Press

DOVER — The state Senate has given its approval to a bill authorizing the creation of a proposed all-boys charter school in Wilmington.

The bill, which passed the House unanimously in January, was approved by a 16-to-5 margin in the Senate on Wednesday. It will now be sent to Governor Ruth Ann Minner for her signature.

The proposed Prestige Academy is scheduled to open next year, serving at-risk fifth-grade boys.

Critics of the bill say it discriminates on the basis of gender. But opponents point out that attendance at the school is voluntary, and that the bill mandates that the next single-gender to open in Delaware must be for girls.

By the Numbers ... As of April 1, 2008

There are 97 confirmed schools with single-gender programs

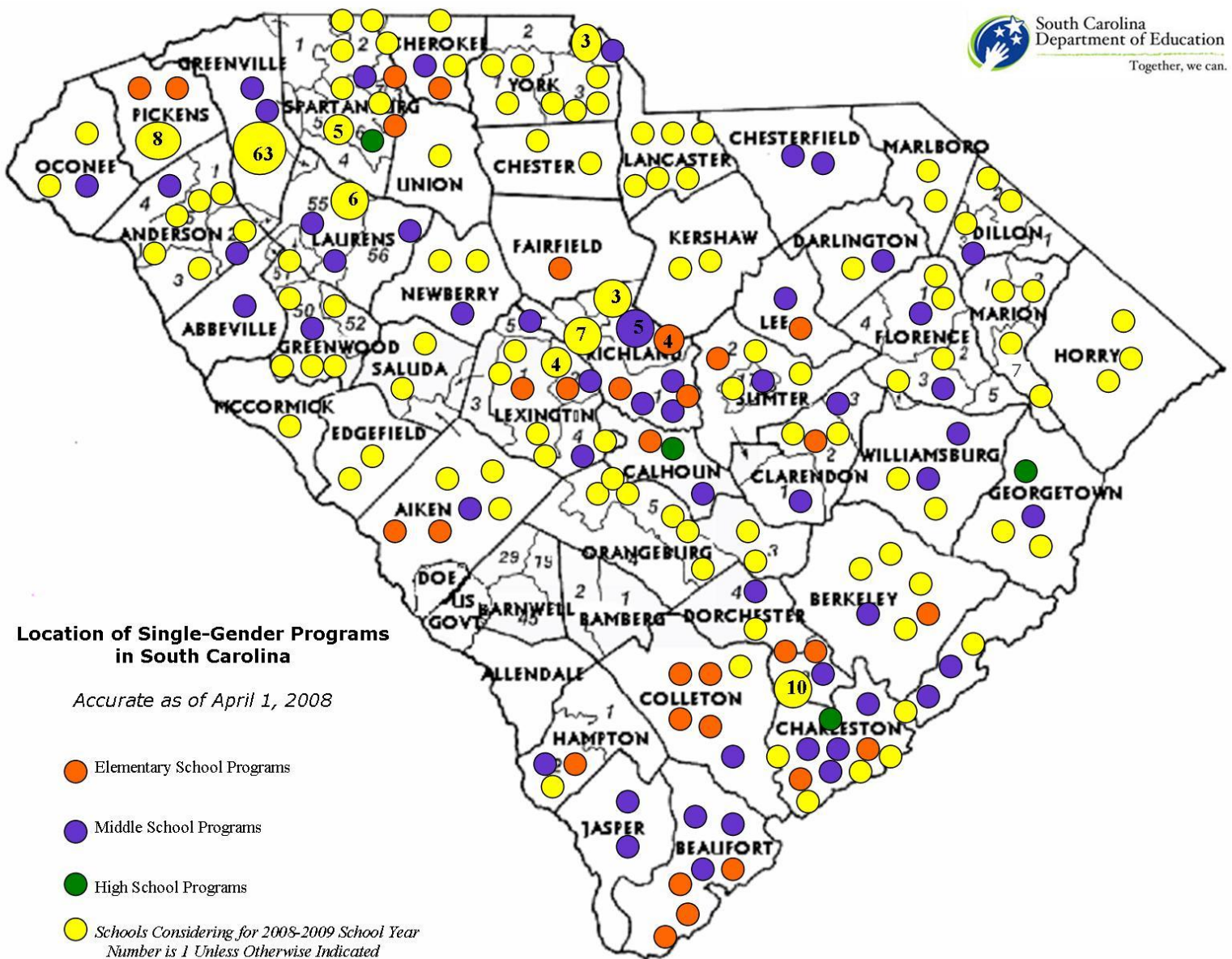
There are 70 districts (82% of the districts in South Carolina) implementing or pursuing single-gender programs in their schools

There are 311 schools doing, pursuing, or interested in single-gender programs (29% of the total schools in the state):

144 (22%) Primary and Elementary Schools

137 (59%) Middle and Junior High Schools

30 (15%) High Schools



Resources Collected During the Year

Team Building Locations

YMCA Camp Greenville—Project Worth

Cedar Mountain, NC

www.campgreenville.com

Variety of classes offered as well as adventure activities. Meals and lodging are available.

Mountain Trail Outdoor School

Hendersonville, NC

www.kanuga.org

Variety of environmental courses are offered as well as adventure activities. Evening activities are also provided. Meals and lodging are available.

Movement Activities

Fit4Learning

www.fit4learning.com

Resources are available about bringing in movement to the elementary school classroom. Her book is titled Action Packed Strategies.

Books for Elementary Boys and Girls

Scobre Press Corporation

The Dream Series

www.scobre.com

Series of books (The Dream Series), fiction and non-fiction, that can be high interest for boys and girls. The titles are also published at two different reading levels in order to support different needs in your classroom

If you are interested in sampling some of these books, please let me know. I will send you some and in return I would ask for feedback from you and your students.

Books for Lower Elementary Boys and Girls

Nelson Education

Boldprint Kids

www.nelsoned.com

A series of books, Boldprint Kids, on topics that interest boys and girls. Each book includes a selection of fiction, non-fiction, graphic story, and a culminating activity.

If you are interested in sampling some of these books, please let me know. I will send you some and in return I would ask for feedback from you and your students.

Schools, by district, with Single-Gender Programs as of April 1, 2008

Diamond Hill Elementary	Abbeville
A.L. Corbett Middle	Aiken
Busbee Elementary	Aiken
North Augusta Elementary	Aiken
Belton Middle	Anderson 2
Riverside Middle	Anderson 4
Hilton Head IB Elementary	Beaufort
Hilton Head Middle	Beaufort
Okatie Elementary	Beaufort
Port Royal Elementary	Beaufort
Robert Smalls Middle	Beaufort
St. Helena Early Learning Center	Beaufort
Whale Branch Middle	Beaufort
Macedonia Middle	Berkeley
Westview Elementary	Berkeley
Calhoun High	Calhoun
Guinyard Elementary	Calhoun
John Ford Middle	Calhoun
Alice Birney Middle	Charleston
Baptist Hill High	Charleston
Brentwood Middle	Charleston
Charleston Progressive	Charleston
Charlestowne Academy	Charleston
Military Magnet	Charleston
Moultrie Middle	Charleston
St. Andrews Middle	Charleston
West Ashley Middle	Charleston
John E. Ewing Middle	Cherokee
Mary Bramlett Elementary	Cherokee
Chesterfield Ruby Middle	Chesterfield
Long Middle	Chesterfield
Scott's Branch Intermediate	Clarendon 1
Manning Primary	Clarendon 2
East Clarendon Middle	Clarendon 3
Black Street Elementary	Colleton
Forest Hills Elementary	Colleton
Hendersonville Elementary	Colleton
Northside Elementary	Colleton
Ruffin Middle	Colleton
Hartsville Middle	Darlington
Latta Middle	Dillon 3
Birchwood High DJJ	DJJ
Willow Lane DJJ	DJJ
Beech Hill Elementary	Dorchester 2
Eagles Nest Elementary	Dorchester 2
Oakbrook Middle	Dorchester 2
Clay Hill Middle	Dorchester 4
Geiger Elementary	Fairfield
Southside Middle	Florence 1

Ronald E. McNair Middle	Florence 3
Carvers Bay High	Georgetown
Carvers Bay Middle	Georgetown
Langston Charter	Greenville
Northwest Middle	Greenville
Brewer Middle	Greenwood 50
Estill Elementary	Hampton 2
Estill Middle	Hampton 2
Hardeeville Junior High	Jasper
Ridgeland Junior High	Jasper
Gray Court-Owings Middle	Laurens 55
Laurens Middle	Laurens 55
Bell Street Middle	Laurens 56
Mount Pleasant Middle	Lee
West Lee Elementary	Lee
Lake Murray Elementary	Lexington 1
Northside Middle	Lexington 2
Wil Lou Gray Challenge Academy	Lexington 2
Sandhills Middle	Lexington 4
Crossroads Middle	Lexington 5
Mid-Carolina Middle	Newberry
Seneca Middle	Oconee
A.R. Lewis Elementary	Pickens
Dacusville Elementary	Pickens
Hand Middle	Richland 1
South Kilbourne Elementary	Richland 1
Southeast Middle	Richland 1
W.G. Sanders Middle	Richland 1
Webber Elementary	Richland 1
Blythewood Middle	Richland 2
Dent Middle	Richland 2
E.L. Wright Middle	Richland 2
Joseph Keels Elementary	Richland 2
Kelly Mill Middle	Richland 2
Killian Elementary	Richland 2
Rice Creek Elementary	Richland 2
Sandlapper Elementary	Richland 2
Summit Parkway Middle	Richland 2
Pacolet Middle	Spartanburg 3
Florence Chapel Middle	Spartanburg 5
Dormon High	Spartanburg 6
Cleveland Elementary	Spartanburg 7
Park Hills Elementary	Spartanburg 7
Bates Middle	Sumter 17
Rafting Creek Elementary	Sumter 2
Hemingway High	Williamsburg
Kingstree Junior High	Williamsburg
Fort Mill Middle	York 4

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES
OFFERED BY SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE, SINGLE-GENDER INITIATIVES
All Registration Information is Available on the SCDE Webpage
<http://ed.sc.gov/sgi> and click on Registrations**

**April 22, 2008
9:30 AM—1:00 PM**

**Heyward Career and Technology Center, Columbia (registration page attached)
Gender Differences and Strategies for Your Classroom
David Chadwell**

***Training session for teachers in or preparing to be in single-gender classrooms.
Limited to 200 participants with over 170 already registered!***

Summer Training Dates

In an effort to reach as many educators as possible during the summer, I have arranged for several training sessions at schools around the state. Educators are welcome to attend. Registration is limited and required.

June 12 8:30—11:30

Bethel Hanberry Elementary in Blythewood (Richland 2)

Gender Differences and Implications for the Classroom, plus the Top 10 strategies for boys and girls!

Limited to 50 participants (already 40 registered)

June 13 8:30—3:30 lunch on own from 11:30 - 12:30

Whittemore Park Middle in Conway (Horry)

Gender Differences and Implication for the Classroom, plus focus on Content Areas and Classroom Practices with time for lesson planning for boys and girls.

Limited to 50 participants (already 25 registered)

June 26 9:00—12:00

Kelly Mill Middle in Blythewood (Richland 2)

Gender Differences and Implications for the Classroom, plus the Top 10 strategies for boys and girls!

Limited to 50 participants (already 20 registered)

June 30 9:00—3:30 lunch on own from 11:30—12:30

Langston Charter Middle in Greenville (Greenville)

Gender Differences and Implication for the Classroom, plus planning

Limited to 200 participants (already 30 registered)

July 23 9:00—11:30

Nevitt Forest Elementary in Anderson (Anderson 5)

Gender Differences and Implications for the Classroom

Limited to 50 participants

August 13 9:30 - 11:30

Edgewood Middle in Greenwood 52

Gender Differences and Implications for the Classroom

Limited to 50 participants

August 15 12:00—3:00

James F. Byrnes Freshman Academy in Duncan (Spartanburg 5)

Gender Differences and Implications for the Classroom plus Top 10 Strategies

Limited to 100 participants